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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

OF THE

BOARD OF CONTROLLERS.

JULY 26, 1850.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF CONTROLLERS.
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At a Meeting of the Controllers of Public Schools, First District of Pennsylvania, held on Friday, July 26, 1850, the following Report and Resolution were adopted, and ordered to be sent to the County Board.

From the Minutes.

R. J. HEMPHILL, *Secretary.*

REPORT.

THE Committee on Estimates, to whom was referred the following communication from the County Board, viz. :—

To the Controllers of the Public Schools
Of the First School District of Pennsylvania :—

GENTLEMEN—

The Committee appointed by the County Board to enquire whether the expenses of the Schools cannot be reduced, respectfully submit the following queries for your consideration.

I. Is not the present system of studies adopted in the Schools entirely too onerous for the capacies of most children? And does it not result, in a majority of cases, in imparting but a superficial knowledge of the different branches?

II. Would it not be better to confine the system of education to the common branches of the English language?—Say, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar and Geography. By doing which, (if no expense were saved to the county,) would not the terms of the scholars be shortened, and room made for others who are now seeking admission?

III. Are children admitted into the schools, whose parents do not reside in the city and county of Philadelphia, or in the State of Pennsylvania?

IV. In what manner are the supplies of Books, Stationery, &c., furnished? And how are the contracts disposed of for the building, repairs, &c., of the School Houses?

V. What are the prices paid for the different Books, Stationery, &c., used in the schools?

VI. What amount of Real Estate is owned, and the cost of buildings, respectively, with the date of purchase?

By order of the Committee.

F. PIERSON, *Secretary.*

Philadelphia, June 22, 1850.

Respectfully Report,

That they have considered the queries contained in the said communication.

To the First and Second questions, your Committee are induced by the experience of past years to give a decided negative. During eighteen years, from 1818 to 1836, the Controllers pursued the system of instruction here indicated. The studies were limited to the branches named in these queries. The consequence was, there was no stimulus to exertion either for scholars or teachers—the schools languished, were odious, were stigmatized as poor schools, and people could not be induced, by any means, to send their children. The beginning of an improvement in the schools is contemporary with the beginning of a more liberal course of instruction. From the very year that the Controllers enlarged the course of studies, and established for this purpose different classes of schools, beginning with the Primary and ending with the High School, the system began to find favor with the community, and scholars thronged for admission. A return to the old system, which is now exploded in every part of the country that has made any con-

siderable progress in the cause of popular education, would, in the opinion of your Committee, give the greatest dissatisfaction to the community, and be in a high degree unwise, and in violation of the spirit of the law establishing the system.

Every effort has thus far been made by the Board of Controllers to elevate and not to depress the standard of Common School Education. To be valuable to the community, the system must be one that will fit our children for the practical business of life—elevating the man, and blessing the poor as well as the wealthy; thus making and treating all as equal.

The results of the present admirable system are gradually diffusing its benefit among all classes of the community, and is surely and firmly establishing itself in the hearts of the people. "The system is intended to make each pupil, in his own sphere, a good citizen and a useful man; and we believe it accomplishes this end."

To the Third question, your Committee reply, that none, such as indicated by the query, are admitted into the schools with the knowledge of the Controllers.

To the Fourth question, we reply that the Books and Stationery are purchased by a Committee appointed by the Board for that purpose, who invite proposals for supplying such books as the Board of Control, from time to time, adopt for the use of the schools, regulating the prices by the offers thus made, and giving their orders to various Publishers for supplies as they may be wanted. Proposals for building School Houses are advertised for, and the contracts given to the lowest bidder, with security for the faithful performance of the same.

To the Fifth question, the Committee annex as a reply, a List of Prices paid the past year for the following Books, Stationery, &c., viz. :—

	Per Dozen.
Algebra, Green's, - - - - - - -	$5 00
Arithmetic, Emerson's, part First, - - - -	0 90
" " " Second, - - - -	2 75

	Per Dozen.
Arithmetic, Emerson's, part Third,	$6 50
" " Key,	2 40
Arithmetic, Rhoads', Primary,	1 20
" " Second part,	2 75
Arithmetic, United States, part First,	1 50
" " " Second,	3 00
" " Key,	2 25
Bibles,	4 50
Biography of Pennsylvania,	5 00
Cards, Arithmetical Table,	0 48
" Multiplication Table,	0 30
" Alphabet and Spelling,	0 36
Compendium of English Literature, Cleveland's,	13 50
Companion, Scholar's,	4 50
Chalk, prepared, per gross,	$0 75
Composition, Frost's,	3 00
Copy Books, Controllers',	0 45
" Rand's,	0 75
" Slips, per sett,	0 25
Conversations on Common Things,	4 50
Constitution of United States, Hart's,	2 25
Dictionary, Cobb's Walker,	3 75
" Walker's,	2 18¾
" Johnson & Walker, large size, single,	1 87½
" Robbins' Primary,	2 75
Etymology, First Book of,	3 20
" Class Book of,	4 80
Geography and Atlas, Mitchell's,	9 00
" Mitchell's Primary,	3 00
" " Intermediate,	7 20
Geography of Pennsylvania, Trego's,	6 00
Grammar, Hart's,	2 50
" Smith's,	2 75
Gradations, Butter's,	1 25

	Per Dozen.
History United States, Frost's, - - - - -	$3 00
" " Goodrich's Pictorial, - - -	6 50
" " Olney's, - - - - -	2 75
" Emerson's Outlines of, - - - - -	3 50
" Lardner's Outlines of, - - - - -	6 00
" Ruschenberger's first Book of, - - -	3 00
Ink, per gallon, - - - - -	$0 37½
Ink Wells, - - - - - - - -	0 37½
Jack Halyard, - - - - - - -	2 25
Maps, single, with book, - - - - - -	7 50
Marshall's Life of Washington, - - - - -	6 00
Mensuration, Vogdes's, - - - - - -	6 75
Paper, per ream, - - - - -	2 75
Pens, per gross, - - - - -	0 62½
Pen Holders, per gross, - - - -	0 87½
Primary Book, No. 1, - - - - - -	1 25
Poetry, Hart's Class Book of, - - - - -	6 75
Prose, " " " - - - - -	6 75
Pronouncing Gazetteer, Baldwin's, - - - -	12 00
Readers, Emerson's First Class, - - - -	3 75
" " Second " - - - -	2 50
" " Third " - - - -	1 60
" " Fourth " - - - -	1 00
" Cobb's, First part, - - - - -	1 00
" " Second " - - - - -	1 12½
" " Third " - - - - -	1 50
" " Fourth " - - - - -	3 00
" " Fifth " - - - - -	6 00
Slates, large, - - - - - - -	1 42
" small, - - - - - - - -	0 90
Slate Pencils, per M., - - - -	0 90
Spelling Book, Emerson's, - - - - -	1 37½
" " Pennsylvania, No. 2, - - - -	1 37½
" " Comly's, - - - - - -	1 00
" " Cobb's, - - - - - -	1 25
Testaments, - - - - - - - -	3 00

To the Sixth, and last question, the Committee submit the following as a reply, viz:

Amount expended for Real Estate and Furniture, from January 1818, to June 30, 1850.

For the year ending	December 31st,	1818,	$17,967 10
Do	do	1819,	22,416 29
Do	do	1820,	10,745 28
Do	do	1821,	5,049 51
Do	do	1822,	1,332 68
Do	do	1823,	236 24
Do	do	1824,	8,399 38
Do	do	1825,	4,856 99
Do	do	1826,	352 47
Do	do	1827,	5,742 17
Do	do	1828,	6,541 51
Do	do	1829,	9,110 85
Do	do	1830,	5,374 43
Do	do	1831,	312 10
Do	do	1832,	23,090 07
Do	do	1833,	40,918 51
Do	do	1834,	12,307 44
Do	do	1835,	1,561 27
Do	do	1836,	23,787 42
Do	do	1837,	113,909 91
Do	do	1838,	82,752 70
Do	do	1839,	27,487 22
Do	do	1840,	41,797 04
Do	do	1841,	56,922 72
For 1½ years,	ending June 30th,	1843,	84,669 16
For the year	ending June 30th,	1844,	18,513 60
Do	do	1845,	21,105 67
Do	do	1846,	31,266 78
Do	do	1847,	45,319 45
Do	do	1848,	27,855 71
Do	do	1849,	5,495 93
Do	do	1850,	38,730 06
		Total, - - -	$795,927 66

For a more detailed account of the Expenses, School Houses, Cost of Tuition, Pupils, and Teachers, we refer to the Report of the Controllers in 1846, folio 100 to 121. For the appropriations wanted by the different Sections for new buildings, and the number of children waiting admission into the Schools, we refer to the Report of the Committee on Estimates, hereto annexed.

The Committee on Estimates in their Report say, that the Schools will require for their support, from the city and county, the ensuing year, the sum of - - - - $356,315 00

Included in this Estimate is an appropriation for building one or more school houses in each of the Sections, amounting to - - - - - - - - - $47,300 00
For New Furniture, - - - - - - - 7,850 00
For repairs and additions to School Houses, - 13,460 00
For Night Schools, - - - - - - - 21,400 00
The County Board have appropriated, on account, for the Public Schools for the present year, the sum of - $270,000 00
Leaving a deficit of - - - - - - 86,315 00

It therefore appears, from the above statement, and the character of the queries submitted by the County Board, that no appropriation has been made for new school houses, for furniture, repairs and additions to school houses, or for night schools.

With regard to the new school buildings there can be no question as to an existing necessity for them; there are 3807 children now waiting admission into the Schools. In addition to which there is known to be a large number also waiting admission, who have made no formal application, knowing the Schools to be full.

The sum asked for Furniture will be required to furnish the new school houses, to supply deficiencies in the present schools, and for repairing and replacing the old and broken.

The item for Repairs and Additions, is necessary to keep the buildings in order, painting, repairs, &c. A portion is wanted for new class rooms to the present buildings in several of the Sections. In some of the schools alterations are wanted, to make the buildings comfortable, and to separate the sexes.

The Night Schools have met with general favor, and their usefulness and importance conceded on all hands; the law authorizes their establishment, and the Board of Controllers therefore deemed it a duty to provide for them.

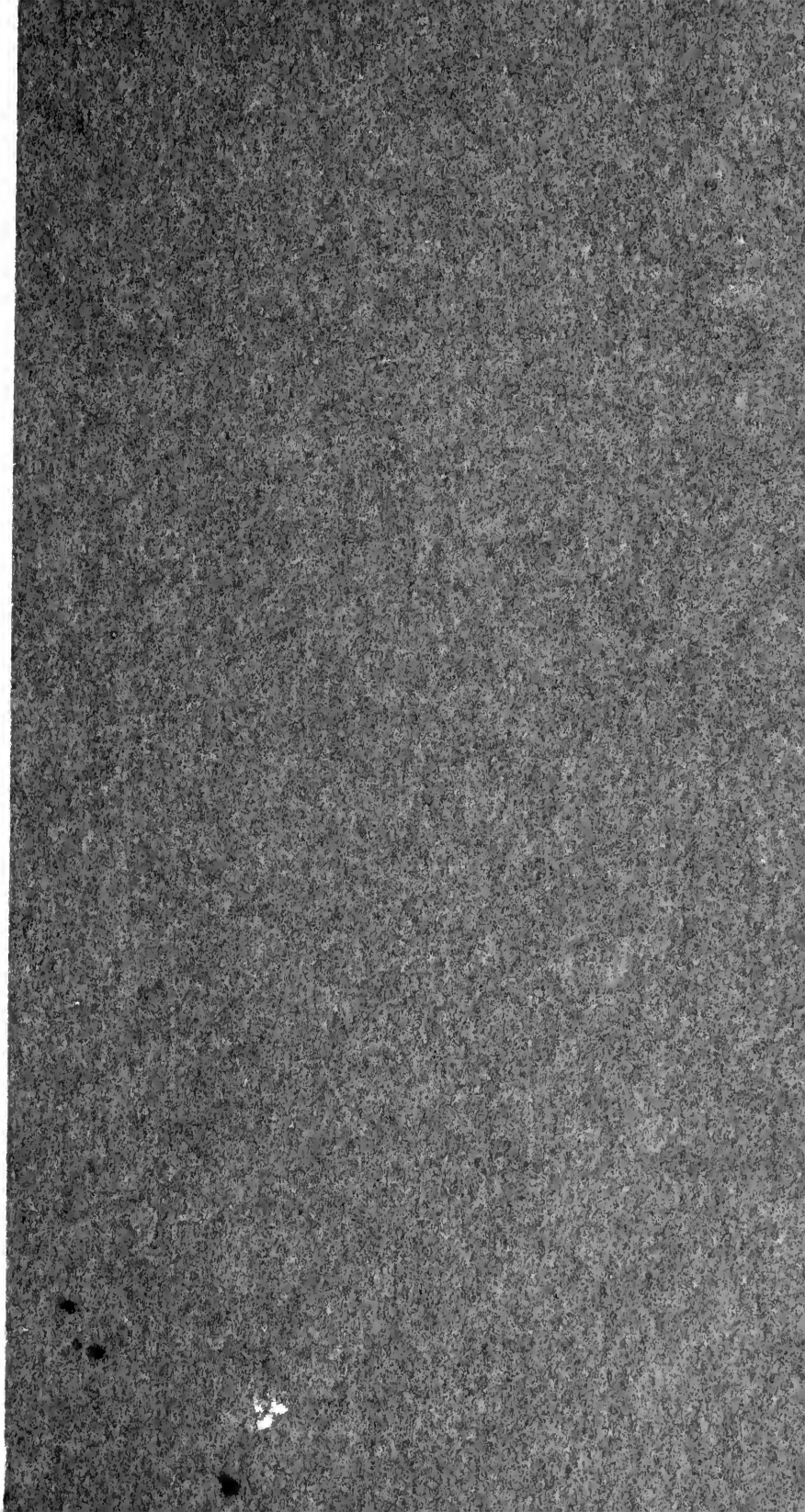
The tax for the support of Public Schools, if the sum asked for shall be appropriated, will be $2\frac{59}{100}$ mills per dollar on the assessed value of the property in the city and county of Philadelphia, being less than the tax raised for the same purpose in many other towns and districts in the Union.

The Committee submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That the County Board be requested to decide upon making the appropriation for the balance of the sum required for school purposes, that the different sections may make the necessary arrangements for commencing the buildings to be erected, and for opening the night schools on the first of October.

By order of the Committee,

WM. MARTIN, *Chairman.*



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